

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DAMAGE FORCES CLOSURE OF PIGEON POINT LIGHTHOUSE; LIGHTHOUSE GROUNDS REMAIN OPEN

One of the San Mateo coast's most popular visitor attractions, the lighthouse at Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park in Pescadero, recently suffered structural damage, which has forced suspension of public tours of the interior of the lighthouse.

Two large sections of brick and iron cornice broke away from the 115-foot historic tower, the focal point of the park, in late December. California State Parks and the U.S. Coast Guard have declared the building unsafe, closing the building until the extent of damage can be determined and repairs made. A chain link fence has been erected around the lighthouse to assure public safety. It is estimated that closure will continue at least through the end of 2002.

Lighthouse grounds in the State Park remain open daily from 8 am to sunset. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., State Park docents conduct half-hour guided history walks around the lighthouse grounds. There is no charge for the tours. The Keeper's Store, selling lighthouse books, clothing and mementos, is also open Fridays through Sundays. On rainy days, the store is closed and the guided history walks are cancelled.

On weekends in April, California State Parks will host Whalewatch 2002 at Pigeon Point. This annual event provides information and hands-on exhibits about gray whales as they migrate north to Alaska. During this time, the whales, particularly mothers and calves, stay very close to shore, allowing excellent opportunities to view these spectacular creatures up close. There is no charge for this event.

There has been no impact on Pigeon Point Hostel accommodations. For hostel information and reservations, call 650-879-0633. **For information regarding guided history tours, repair status, and Whalewatch 2002, call 650-879-2120.**

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